

Possibilities



Suffolk County Department of Health
Early Intervention



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NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME

Welcome to Possibilities, a quarterly newsletter for families of children in the Suffolk County Early Intervention Program. The focus of this edition is you, the parent. You, more than anyone else, have the ability to influence your child's growth and development. You are your child's first and most effective teacher. The goal of the early intervention program is to work with you to help your child learn new skills within the context of your daily routines. Infants and toddlers learn best through every day experiences and interactions with familiar people. By partnering with your interventionist, you make a conscious decision to do all you can to help your child grow and develop.

We are excited to share this first edition with you. We hope you find it informative and helpful. We welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions. We expect that your Early Intervention experience will be a positive and productive one, filled with learning opportunities for you and your child. *Sheila Ventrice SCDH*

FEATURE ARTICLE

PARTNERING

WITH YOUR

EARLY INTERVENTION

TEAM...

BY: DONNA MENNA MA ED CCCSLP

Caregivers provide important information about daily routines.

Your input helps the early intervention provider create ways to make every interaction a learning experience.

"Early interventionists team with family members and other important adults in learning strategies and effectively using the strategies in between intervention visits."

-Bonnie Keilty, Ed.D (2010)

You are the most important person in your child's life and you know your child best. The role of the early intervention provider is to partner with you in gaining a better understanding of your family's daily routines, with a focus on establishing "learning opportunities" for your child and family.

Early Intervention is a team effort: the professionals offer their knowledge of early childhood development and the family offers knowledge about their child. Together, the team problem solves to promote learning, while providing support to each other throughout the process. The interventionist will describe and demonstrate how to make daily routines easier while providing opportunities for learning - their role is to guide the family. The family should feel comfortable in carrying over learning opportunities throughout the day.

When you view your early interventionist as a coach, progress happens!

DID YA KNOW...?

Meryl Teitlebaum

Children Learn

Through Play!!!!

* Allow babies to have lots of tummy time throughout the day

* Give your baby sturdy, simple objects for touching and mouthing

* Toys should not hang or dangle above the baby

* Objects should be placed where the baby can reach, grasp, hold, turn, manipulate, mouth and drop them!

Create a safe
Place to explore
And learn



TIPS...

Desiree Metz MS, MEd

You can make a simple meal a fun filled learning experience
So much can be learned through your interactions with
Your child....

During mealtimes:

Name the items your child is using/eating

Pretend play by allowing your child to feed you

Let your child touch and feel the food. Describe what they are doing.

Interacting with your child will encourage language development and provide social emotional stimulation. Show your child how to use utensils to promote independence. Counting and labeling the colors of items on their plate is fun and will stimulate learning in just one meal!

LET US KNOW...Families are the most important part of Early Intervention Services and this newsletter is about you and for you...

So if you have a story, an interest for future articles or would like to share something that has worked for you, please email dmenna@kidztherapy.com

FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES...

Valerie Mace

Simple household activities can offer learning experiences for your babies and toddlers!

It's Laundry Time : Here's a way to encourage social interaction and communication.

- While folding laundry, label each item and encourage your baby to label as well.
- Ask your child questions: Where are the socks? Encourage pointing and verbalizing.
- Help your child learn matching skills by sorting socks, shirts, pants, etc.
- Make a game by having your child toss sock balls into the laundry basket.
- Make this chore a fun, silly activity where your child is looking at you, listening to you and learning from you.

It's Shopping Time: Try these activities on your next shopping trip to encourage social interaction, language, use of different senses and use of large muscles.

- As you walk down the aisles name the items your child is looking at (i.e. "look at the apples").
- Encourage your child to touch, smell, and hold different items.
- Talk about color and quantity ("I have two red apples").
- Have your toddler place the items in a bag.
- Pack lightweight bags so that your toddler can help you carry in the groceries.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ...

Karen Mowdy

Dorothy Aversano

How do I know what my family routines are? How can these routines help my child learn?

Your family routines are anything you and your child typically do throughout the day. Many are associated with chores or daily activities such as meal time, housework, running errands and interacting with family and friends. Almost all activities have learning opportunities and can become a teaching and learning routine.

Resource Corner

Suffolk County Early Intervention Program:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/healthservices/children.aspx>

Activity websites:

www.toddletoddler.com

www.longisland.com